



2015-2020 Strategic Framework

Enhancing Missouri

It's in Our Nature

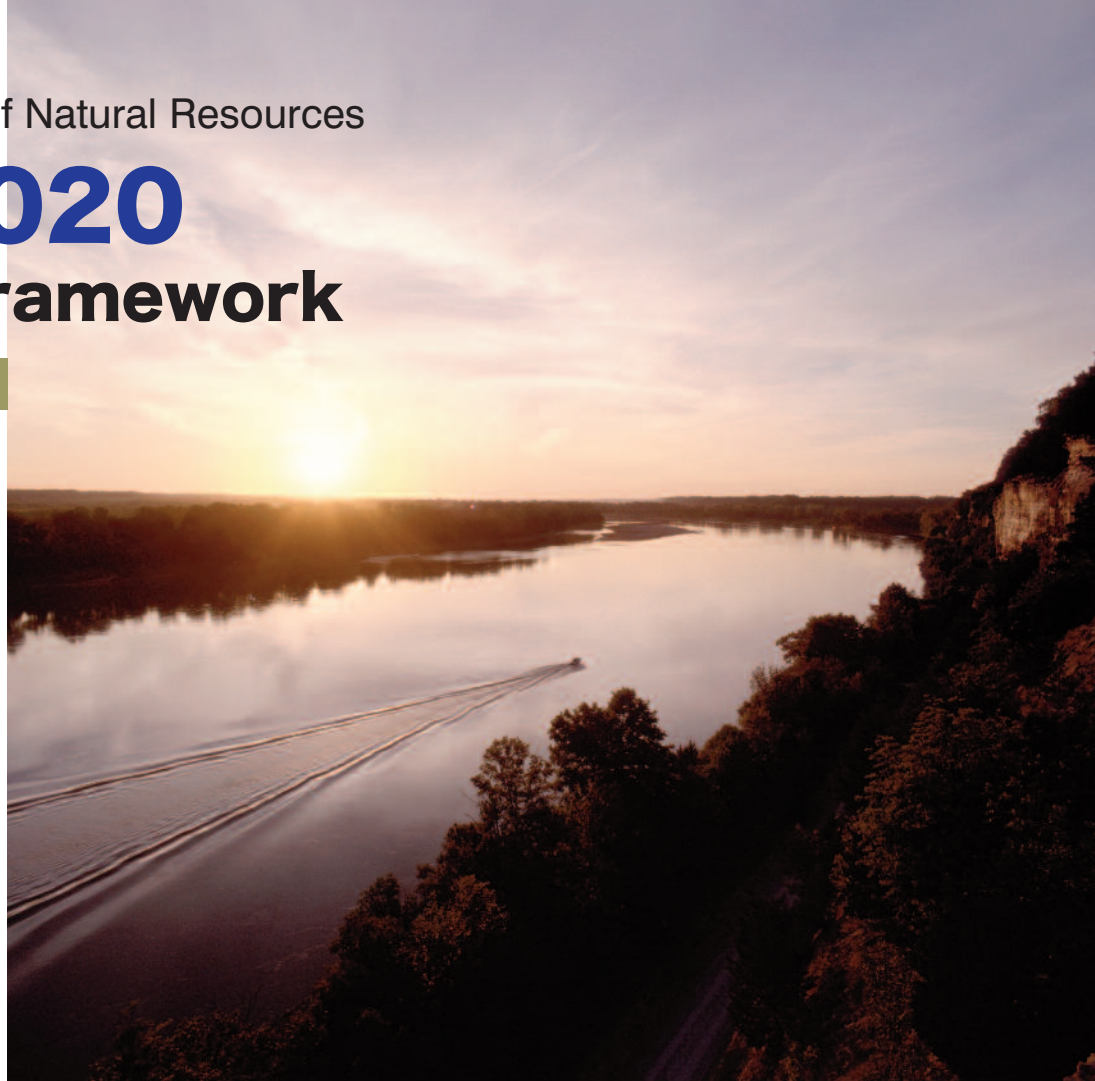


MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

2015-2020 Strategic Framework

As Missourians, we are proud of our state's unique natural and cultural resource abundance and diversity, our heritage and our way of life.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is a steward of this heritage – a responsibility it shares with Missouri citizens, businesses and communities.



Mission

The mission of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is to protect our air, land and water; to preserve our unique natural and historic places; and to provide recreational and learning opportunities for everyone.

Vision for Missouri

The Department of Natural Resources envisions a Missouri in which people live and work in harmony with our natural and cultural resources, and make decisions that result in a quality environment.



Vision for the Department

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' vision is to be a trusted, forward-thinking, open-minded and respected leader in natural resource protection and cultural resource preservation. We will achieve our vision through transparent, science-based decisions that benefit and sustain the state's natural resources for Missouri citizens by:

- ✎ Bringing superior service to the citizens of Missouri by managing the natural, historic and cultural resources we have been entrusted to protect and preserve with openness and transparency;
- ✎ Providing exemplary educational and interpretive programs to encourage healthy and enjoyable outdoor lifestyles that connect our citizens with nature;
- ✎ Serving as a national leader in natural resource issues by applying sound science and collaborative adaptive management strategies, seeking innovative solutions and utilizing all relevant information and expertise and;
- ✎ Collaborating with partners to achieve our mission, while considering social, economic and environmental needs.



Values

At the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, we believe in, promote and exemplify:

- **Integrity** – Above all
- **Excellence** – In all we do
- **Openness** – To all points of view
- **Diversity** – In people and approaches
- **Science-based Decision Making** – In our work
- **Transparency** – In our actions and decisions
- **Communication** – That is effective, timely and open
- **Service** – That upholds our mission professionally and accountably to all Missourians



The department achieves its goals through **partnerships**, working with diverse interests from all parts of Missouri to support our mission and to better serve the public and manage our natural and cultural resources.

Department Focus Areas

The efforts listed below comprise the department's priority focus areas for the next five years. These focus areas are designed to improve the way the department provides services to our customers.



Our Missouri Waters

Missouri's waters are as diverse as the landscapes and communities through which they flow, and play a critical role in the state's overall health and economic well-being. In order to maximize the use and protection of our state's waters, the department has implemented an innovative effort called Our Missouri Waters, where we will engage our citizens to address Missouri's water resources in a holistic way.

Watershed Planning

Helping communities manage their water resources at the local watershed level, where specific water management needs are best addressed.

Comprehensive State Water Plan

Comprehensive state water planning provides a blueprint that ensures all Missourians have sustainable access to clean, abundant water.



Service and Engagement

The department believes in providing superior service to the citizens of Missouri through continuous improvements. Increased transparency, enhanced service and engagement with the citizenry, including our youth, will ultimately result in natural resource protection and a better quality of life.

Community Services

Many small communities are experiencing declining populations and are struggling financially to keep up with water infrastructure improvements. These challenges have created an opportunity to take a fresh look at how the department works with communities and partners to provide technical expertise and assistance in planning for the future.

Youth Education

The department has a responsibility to inform Missourians about the importance of our natural and cultural resources. This effort seeks to provide today's youth with the knowledge and appreciation of nature that will encourage them to connect with and care for our resources into the future.



Enhancing Effectiveness and Efficiency (E3)

The department is embracing a “Lean” continuous improvement culture to enhance our efficiency and effectiveness at delivering services to our constituents.

Natural Resource Protection

Missouri is blessed with an abundance of natural and cultural resources. Our air, land and water support a vibrant economy, as well as our citizens' health and quality of life.

Compliance Assistance and Enforcement Efforts

Providing compliance assistance to the regulated community is essential to ensure continued protection of our natural resources. The department's enhanced compliance assistance program simplifies the regulation process and provides greater access to the resources necessary to help our customers thrive and succeed. Compliance assistance tools are regularly utilized as a precursor to enforcement actions. The department will continue to utilize strategic, efficient and effective enforcement tools when needed to ensure we are protecting Missouri citizens and our natural resources.



Restoration of our Natural Resources

Part of the department's responsibility is to serve as a steward of the state's natural resources to ensure maximum benefit to the citizens of Missouri. The department has opportunities to not only protect and preserve, but also to restore injured resources or provide opportunities to offset the damage when resources have been lost or compromised.

Climate Variability

Missouri's weather is dynamic as recently shown by extreme flood and drought conditions. Utilizing research and science to assist in risk reduction, mitigation and preparedness will assist in promoting natural resource resiliency and more effective disaster recovery planning.



Goals and Objectives

Goal I.

Enhance Human Health, Safety and our Natural Resources:

Protecting our natural resources protects our health and quality of life.

The health of our environment is interconnected with our health and well-being. As John Muir stated, "When we tug at a single thing in nature, we find it attached to the rest of the world." An essential role of the department is to ensure proper actions and considerations are taken to protect the health, well-being and safety of Missouri citizens. These actions also support stewardship of our resources and foster collaboration and innovation within the department and with our stakeholders.

Objectives

- ✎ Carry out the authority with which the department has been entrusted to ensure health-based environmental laws are met.
- ✎ Safeguard the long-term health of Missourians and our natural resources through a balanced approach.
- ✎ Ensure preparedness for extreme events.
- ✎ Encourage and promote a safe and healthy environment in our Missouri state parks and on our state's remaining public and private lands.
- ✎ Increase the department's ability to be proactive regarding emerging issues in natural resource protection.





Goal II.

Strengthen Resource Protection and Management Efforts:

Actively preserve and manage Missouri's natural and cultural resources.

The health and vitality of Missouri's resources depends heavily on our collective ability to protect and preserve them in a responsible way. The department helps maintain these resources in a variety of ways. Adaptive management strategies improve our knowledge and understanding of our state's resources and ensure their long-term protection and beneficial use.

Objectives

-  Ensure the quality and quantity of Missouri's water resources are maintained at the highest level practical to support present and future beneficial uses.
-  Maintain, restore and conserve Missouri's land resources to protect public health and the environment, and to support general and economic welfare.
-  Sustain and improve the quality of Missouri's air to protect public health, general welfare and the environment.
-  Preserve and manage the finest examples of Missouri's natural landscapes through the state parks system.
-  Preserve, restore and manage our state's most outstanding cultural resources.



Goal III.

Increase Effective Education, Outreach and Communication:

Effectively communicate the department's mission and provide learning opportunities for all Missourians and our visitors.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has an inherent role in informing Missourians about our natural and cultural resources. A citizenry that is aware of important natural resource issues will be equipped to make the best possible decisions for themselves and our state. Strong education, outreach and communication strategies will assist the department in building awareness and encourage appropriate actions that result in a better quality of life for everyone.

Objectives

- ☛ Increase the public's knowledge, understanding and support for Missouri's natural and cultural resources; the value of those resources; and the benefits they provide.
- ☛ Effectively communicate the department's role in protecting and enhancing Missouri's natural and cultural resources.
- ☛ Create and deliver innovative educational and interpretive programs.
- ☛ Increase opportunities to involve and engage Missourians in the department's mission.



photo by Mary Fowler, National Wildlife Federation






Goal IV.

Promote Public Use and Enjoyment:

Connect people to Missouri's natural and cultural resources.

Missourians have a strong connection to their natural resources through our air, land and water. The benefits of being in nature, engaging in outdoor recreation and understanding the contribution of our natural resources to our health and well-being is a deep part of our Missouri heritage and our mission.

Objectives

-  Connect people to our natural and cultural resources through enjoyable outdoor recreational opportunities in Missouri State Parks.
-  Communicate the value of a clean and healthy environment that sustains abundant and varied plant, fish and wildlife populations for the diverse enjoyment and use of all Missourians and visitors to our state.
-  Develop and nurture our connection to the outdoors by promoting the physical, mental and social health benefits to Missourians.



With your help,
the Department
of Natural
Resources
ensures a healthy
environment
in which to live,
work and enjoy
the great outdoors.





Goal V.

Improve Organizational Performance:

Ensure that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is well managed and maintains sufficient resources to support organizational excellence.

Efficient and effective public service is a cornerstone that allows the department to attain its mission. Providing the tools and organizational excellence to meet and address 21st-century challenges and expectations is paramount.

Objectives

- ☞ Attract, recruit and retain qualified, motivated, diverse and capable staff.
- ☞ Foster a safe and professional workplace committed to staff education, growth, innovation and open communication.
- ☞ Ensure adequate department resources while being good stewards of taxpayers' dollars.
- ☞ Improve data use and use of technology to better share our data resources internally and externally.

- ☞ Effectively target technical and financial resources with the goal of creating the most significant long-term benefits.
- ☞ Increase the department's long-term planning efforts in critical areas.
- ☞ Employ a "Lean in Government" process improvement effort throughout the department to increase our efficiency and effectiveness at delivering services. (E3: Enhancing Efficiency and Effectiveness)





Key Messages



Missourians value our state's natural resources and the quality of life they provide.



With your help, the Department of Natural Resources ensures a healthy environment in which to live, work and enjoy the great outdoors.



We help you discover and preserve Missouri's past.



We invite you to explore and experience nature in Missouri's beautiful state parks.



Missouri's vital natural resources and state parks contribute to a healthy economy.



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